

## What is Abuse?

An “elder at risk” is a person age 60 or older who has experienced, is currently experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, or self-neglect, or financial exploitation.

An “adult at risk” is any adult who has a physical or mental condition who has a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs his or her ability to care for his or her needs who has experienced, is currently experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect or financial exploitation.

**Physical Abuse** is the willful infliction of physical pain, injury or unreasonable confinement. It includes, but is not limited to beating, choking, burning, inappropriate medication and tying or locking a person up or sexual assault.

**Material or Financial Abuse** is the misuse of an elder’s money or property. It includes deception, diverting income, mismanagement of funds and taking money or possessions against a person’s will.

**Neglect** occurs when a caregiver’s failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical or dental care results in significant danger to the physical and mental health of an older person in his/her care.

**Self-neglect** occurs when there is a significant danger to an elder person’s physical or mental health because the elder person is unable or fails to provide him/herself with adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical or dental care.

If you suspect abuse occurring, please contact your local Adult Protective Services Unit or local law enforcement. APS workers within the Northwoods region are housed within the Departments of Social Services within their respective county offices.